



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service  
Food and Drug Administration

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San Francisco District  
1431 Harbor Bay Parkway  
Alameda, California 94502-7070  
Telephone: (510) 337-6700

Via Federal Express

Our Reference: 29-54426

May 5, 1999

Carl M. Sousa, Owner  
White River Dairy  
20784 Laurel Avenue  
Stratford, California 93266

**WARNING LETTER**

Dear Mr. Sousa:

Tissue residue reports from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and an investigation of your dairy on April 15 and 20, 1999, by Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Investigator Thomas W. Gordon has revealed serious violations of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act as follows:

A food is adulterated under Section 402(a)(2)(C)(ii) of the Act if it contains a new animal drug that is unsafe within the meaning of Section 512. On March 19, 1999, you sold a cow (identified by USDA laboratory report number 356766) to be slaughtered for human food. This cow was delivered for introduction into interstate commerce by your firm and was adulterated by the presence of illegal drug residues. USDA analysis of tissues from this cow revealed penicillin in the kidney at 0.79 parts per million (ppm). Presently, the tolerance level for penicillin in the uncooked edible tissues of cattle is 0.05 ppm.

A food is adulterated under Section 402(a)(4) of the Act "if it has been prepared, packed, or held under insanitary conditions...whereby it may have been rendered injurious to health." As it applies in this case, "insanitary conditions" means that you hold animals which are ultimately offered for sale for slaughter as food under conditions which are so inadequate that medicated animals bearing possibly harmful drug residues are likely to enter the food supply. For example, our investigator noted the following:

1. You lack an adequate system for assuring that drugs are used in a manner not contrary to the directions contained in their labeling.
2. You lack an adequate system for quarantining treated animals.

You are adulterating the drug RXV brand of penicillin G procaine within the meaning of Section 501(a)(5) of the Act in that it is a new animal drug within the meaning of Section 201(v) and is unsafe within the meaning of Section 512(a)(1)(B) of the Act since it is not being used in conformance with approved labeling. Labeling for penicillin prescribes a dosage of 1 milliliter (ml) per 100 pounds of body weight once daily and warns against injecting more than 10 ml into one site. Your practice of administering two 35 ml injections per day into one injection site results in a dosage in excess of that allowed by the labeling. Labeling for penicillin prescribes a withdrawal time of ten days prior to slaughter for human food. Overdosing cattle with penicillin, coupled with an inadequate withdrawal period, presents a possibility that illegal residues will occur and is likely the cause of the illegal residues found in the cow you sold for food use.

Your use of the drug Oxy-Tet 100 brand of oxytetracycline hydrochloride is not in conformance with approved labeling. Labeling for Oxy-Tet 100 specifically states it is not for use in lactating dairy cattle. Your practice of administering Oxy-Tet 100 to treat lactating dairy cows is likely to result in illegal residues in the cull cows you consign for slaughter.

Failure to comply with the label instructions on the drugs you use to treat your cows presents the likely possibility that illegal residues will occur and makes the drugs unsafe for use. We request that you take prompt action to ensure that animals which you offer for sale as human food will not be adulterated with drugs or contain illegal residues.

Introducing adulterated foods into interstate commerce is a violation of Section 301(a) of the Act. Causing the adulteration of drugs after receipt in interstate commerce is a violation of Section 301(k) of the Act.

You should be aware that it is not necessary for you to have personally shipped an adulterated animal in interstate commerce to be responsible for a violation of the Act. The fact that you offered an adulterated animal for sale to a slaughter facility where it was held for sale in interstate commerce is sufficient to make you responsible for violations of the Act.

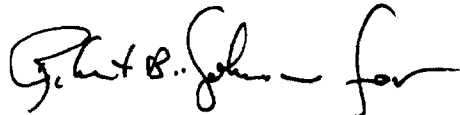
White River Dairy  
Stratford, California

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This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of violations. It is your responsibility to ensure that all requirements of the Act are being met. Failure to achieve prompt corrections may result in enforcement action without further notice, including seizure and/or injunction.

Within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of this letter, notify our Fresno resident post office in writing of the specific steps you have taken to correct these violations and preclude their recurrence. If corrective action cannot be completed within fifteen working days, state the reason for the delay and the time frame within which corrections will be completed. Your response should address each discrepancy brought to your attention during the inspection and in this letter, and should include copies of any documentation demonstrating that corrections have been made. Please direct your reply to Thomas W. Gordon, CSO, 2202 Monterey Avenue, Suite 104E, Fresno, California, 93721.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia Ziobro" followed by a stylized flourish.

Patricia Ziobro  
District Director  
San Francisco District

cc:

